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1. A method of displaying a cursor, comprising:
obtaining a cursor image indication, indicative
of a cursor image;
obtaining an ancillary image indication,
indicative of an ancillary image, based on
the cursor image indication; and
displaying the cursor image and the ancillary
image based on the cursor image indication
and the ancillary image indication, a
location at which the ancillary image is
displayed being based on a location at which
the cursor image is displayed.
2. The method of claim 1 and further comprising:
forming a composite image indication indicative
of a composite image containing both the
cursor image and the ancillary image and
wherein the displaying step comprises
displaying the composite image.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein obtaining a cursor
indication comprises:
obtaining a cursor AND-mask.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein obtaining an
ancillary image indication comprises:
obtaining an ALPHA-mask based on the cursor AND-
mask.
5. The method of claim 4 wherein the cursor AND-mask

6. The method of claim 5 wherein obtaining an ALPHA-mask comprises:

7. The method of claim 6 wherein repositioning comprises:

8. The method of claim 6 wherein the repositioning step comprises:

9. The method of claim 8 wherein obtaining the desired offset value comprises:

obtaining the desired offset value based on a displayed position of the cursor image.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein obtaining the desired offset value comprises:

obtaining the desired offset value based on a displayed position of the cursor image and a time of day.

11. The method of claim 8 wherein obtaining the desired offset value comprises:

obtaining the desired offset value based on data associated with an image underlying a displayed position of the cursor image.

12. The method of claim 8 wherein obtaining the desired offset value comprises:

obtaining the desired offset value based on an operator input from a pointing device.

13. The method of claim 8 wherein obtaining the desired offset value comprises:

obtaining the desired offset value based on a size dimension of the cursor image.

14. The method of claim 4 wherein the displaying step comprises:

blending the ancillary image to a display screen based on the ALPHA-mask; and
blending the cursor image to the display screen based on the cursor AND-mask.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein blending the ancillary image and blending the cursor image are

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performed by blending a composite image, including an ancillary image component and a cursor image component, to the display screen.

16. The method of claim 14 wherein blending the ancillary image and blending the cursor image each comprise:

blending the ancillary image and the cursor image to a temporary bitmap; and
copying the contents of the temporary bitmap to the display screen.

17. The method of claim 4 wherein the displaying step comprises:

blending the ancillary image to a display screen according to a function having a first term corresponding to a portion of the ancillary image displayed and a second term corresponding to a portion of an underlying image displayed.

18. The method of claim 4 and further comprising:
softening the ALPHA-mask.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the softening step comprises:

filtering the ALPHA-mask with an averaging filter a desired number of times.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the desired number of times is based on data associated with an image underlying a displayed position of the cursor image.

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21. The method of claim 1 wherein the ancillary image appears as a shadow of the cursor image.

22. The method of claim 1 wherein the ancillary image appears as an image formed by light impinging on a surface after passing through the cursor image.

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23. A computer system, comprising:
a user input device providing a user input signal indicative of user inputs;
a display device; and
a controller, coupled to the user input device and the display device, configured to receive the user input signal, display a cursor image on the display device based on the user input signal, and display an ancillary image based on at least one characteristic of the cursor image, the controller being configured to display the ancillary image to move based on movement of the cursor image on the display device.

24. The computer system of claim 23 wherein the controller is configured to display the ancillary image as a shadow of the cursor image.

25. The computer system of claim 23 wherein the controller is configured to display the ancillary image as an image formed by light impinging on a surface after passing through the cursor image.

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26. A display on/a computer display device, the display comprising:

a cursor image displayed on the display device
based on a user input; and

an ancillary image displayed on the display device at a position based on a position of the cursor image and having an appearance based on an appearance characteristic of the cursor image.

27. The display of claim 26 wherein the ancillary image appears as a shadow of the cursor image.

28. The display of claim 26 wherein the ancillary image appears as an image formed by light impinging on a surface after passing through the cursor image.

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29. A computer readable medium containing instructions which, when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform steps of:

obtaining a cursor image indication, indicative of a cursor image;

obtaining an ancillary image indication,
indicative of an ancillary image, based on
the cursor image indication; and

displaying the cursor image and the ancillary image based on the cursor image indication and the ancillary image indication, a location at which the ancillary image is displayed being based on a location at which the cursor image is displayed.

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30. The computer readable medium of claim 29 wherein the steps further comprise:

forming a composite image indication indicative of a composite image containing both the cursor image and the ancillary image and wherein the displaying step comprises displaying the composite image.

B1 31. The computer readable medium of claim 29 wherein obtaining a cursor indication comprises:

obtaining a cursor AND-mask.

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32. The computer readable medium of claim 31 wherein obtaining an ancillary image indication comprises:

obtaining an ALPHA-mask based on the cursor AND-mask.

B1 33. The computer readable medium of claim 32 wherein the cursor AND-mask comprises a bitmap having dimensions similar to dimensions of a bitmap defining the cursor image, and wherein each bit defines whether a display by a corresponding pixel is visible or non-visible.

34. The computer readable medium of claim 33 wherein obtaining an ALPHA-mask comprises:

enlarging the AND-mask to include a border;
translating values in the AND-mask bitmap from visible values corresponding to a visible portion of the cursor image to translucent values; and
repositioning the translucent values within the

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enlarged AND-mask by a desired offset value.

35. The computer readable medium of claim 34 wherein repositioning comprises:

repositioning the translucent values by a predetermined offset value.

36. The computer readable medium of claim 34 wherein the repositioning step comprises:

obtaining the desired offset value based on a dynamically changing variable; and repositioning the translucent values based on the obtained offset value.

37. The computer readable medium of claim 36 wherein obtaining the desired offset value comprises:

obtaining the desired offset value based on a displayed position of the cursor image.

38. The computer readable medium of claim 37 wherein obtaining the desired offset value comprises:

obtaining the desired offset value based on a displayed position of the cursor image and a time of day.

39. The computer readable medium of claim 36 wherein obtaining the desired offset value comprises:

obtaining the desired offset value based on data associated with an image underlying a displayed position of the cursor image.

40. The computer readable medium of claim 36 wherein

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46. The method of claim 45 wherein the softening step comprises:
 - filtering the ALPHA-mask with an averaging filter a desired number of times.
47. The method of claim 46 wherein the desired number of times is based on data associated with an image underlying a displayed position of the cursor image.
48. A method of displaying a cursor, comprising:
 - obtaining a cursor indication indicative of an alpha blended AGRB image; and
 - displaying a cursor image based on the cursor indication.
49. The method of claim 48 wherein obtaining comprises:
 - obtaining the cursor indication from an application.
50. The method of claim 48 wherein obtaining comprises:
 - obtaining the cursor indication as indicative of a composite image with per pixel alpha and color values.
51. A display, comprising:
 - a cursor displayed based on an alpha blended AGRB image.

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52. The method of claim 51 wherein the cursor comprises:

a composite image with per pixel alpha and color values.

53. A displayed image on a computer screen comprising:

a cursor with a shadow.

54. The displayed image of claim 53 wherein the shadow is generated, separately from the cursor, and is based on the cursor.

55. The displayed image of claim 53 wherein the shadow and cursor are formed integrally with one another.

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56. A computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon which, when executed, perform a method comprising:

displaying a cursor with a shadow.

57. The computer readable medium of claim 56 wherein displaying comprises:

obtaining cursor image information indicative of both the cursor and the shadow; and displaying the cursor and shadow as a single image based on the cursor image information.

58. The computer readable medium of claim 56 wherein displaying comprises:

obtaining cursor information indicative of the

cursor;
generating shadow information indicative of the
shadow, based on the cursor information; and
displaying the cursor and shadow based on the
cursor information and shadow information.

59. A computer rendered display, comprising:
a cursor image, movable in correlation to
actuation of an input device, the cursor
image having a shadow.
60. The computer rendered display of claim 59 wherein
the shadow is generated separately from the cursor
image based on information indicative of the cursor
image.
61. The computer rendered display of claim 59 wherein
the shadow and cursor image are generated
substantially simultaneously.

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